

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A connective tissue distraction device comprising:

- a) first transmitting means for transmitting force to a first tissue region,
- b) second transmitting means for transmitting force to a second tissue region,
- c) expansion means for engaging said first transmitting means and said second transmitting means and for exerting force distracting said first transmitting means from said second transmitting means,

wherein each of said first transmitting means, said second transmitting means and said expansion means comprises a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material;

19 further wherein said expansion means is ~~not integral to at least one of~~ configured to be disengaged from said first transmitting means ~~or~~ and said second transmitting means.

Claim 2 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said first transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 3 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein said structure for attachment to bone comprises at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 4 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein said structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 2, wherein said structure for attachment to bone ~~is attached to bone via~~ comprises at least one screw.

Claim 6 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 5, wherein said screw is at least in part biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 7 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the second transmitting means comprises a structure for attachment to bone.

Claim 8 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein said structure for attachment to bone is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 9 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein the structure for attachment to bone is a plate.

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Claim 10 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 7, wherein said structure for attachment to bone ~~is attached to bone via~~ comprises at least one screw.

Claim 11 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 10, wherein said screw is at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first transmitting means, second transmitting means or the expansion means comprise a malleable or heat malleable material.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said first transmitting means is configured to transmit force to tissue region ~~comprises~~ connective tissue.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said first transmitting means is configured to transmit force to tissue region ~~comprises~~ bone.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said second transmitting means is configured to transmit force to tissue region comprises connective tissue.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein said second transmitting means is configured to transmit force to tissue region comprises bone.

Claim 17 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the expansion means comprises a screw actuated expansion mechanism.

Claim 18 (Canceled)

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Claim 19 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, further comprising an activation means to modulate the expansion means.

Claim 20 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 19, wherein said activation means is directly or indirectly engaged with expansion means.

Claim 21 (Original) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 20, wherein said activation means is reversibly engaged with the expansion means.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 1, wherein the connective tissue distraction device is implanted implantable in a subject.

Claim 23 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 19, wherein the connective tissue distraction device is implanted implantable in a subject.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended) The connective tissue distraction device of claim 23, wherein at least a portion of the activation means is configured to be external to the subject.

Claim 25 (Original) A method of distracting a first tissue region and a second tissue region, comprising: implanting the connective tissue distraction device of claim 1 into a subject and distracting the first tissue region and the second tissue region.

Claims 26-37 (Canceled)

Claim 38 (Withdrawn) A device for early stabilizing of distracted connective tissue, comprising a stabilizer that comprises in whole or in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material engaged on or near distracted connective tissue.

Claims 39-41 (Canceled)

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Claim 42 (Withdrawn) A method for early stabilizing of distracted connective tissue comprising:

1. performing distraction on a subject using a device of claim 1; and
 2. engaging a stabilizer with at least one of said transmitting means;
- wherein said stabilizer comprises at least in part a biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable material.

Claims 43-51 (Canceled)

Claim 52 (Withdrawn) A method for early stabilizing of distracted connective tissue, comprising:

1. providing biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable materials at or near the site of distraction before a distraction procedure take place, and
2. performing distraction.

Claims 53 and 54 (Canceled)

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Claim 55 (Withdrawn) A method for early stabilizing of distracted connective tissue, comprising: providing biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable materials at or near the site of distraction during distraction.

Claims 56-57 (Canceled)

219 Claim 58 (Withdrawn) A method for early stabilizing of distracted connective tissue, comprising: providing biodegradable, bioerodible or bioresorbable materials at or near the site of distraction after distraction has taken place.

Claims 59 and 60 (Canceled)